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PAGE 0001

MSGNO 16 (STXX) \*05/14/87\* \*17:11:01.4.5\*  
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TO RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0000

RUEKJCS/ JCS WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

RUEKJCS/ SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY 0000

RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

BT

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EZ2:

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM A/S SIGUR

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, KS, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S WARNING RE KIM YOUNG SAM

CINCPAC FOR CARL TAYLOR

REF: A) SEOUL 5564, B) SEOUL 5615

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I AM DISTURBED BY THE RECENT TREND IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH SUGGESTS HARDENING ATTITUDES BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION/DISSIDENTS. WHILE ITS DIRECTION IS UNCERTAIN, THE TREND IS CAUSING CONCERN. WE ARE WORKING UP A MORE COMPLETE PIECE WHICH WE HOPE TO GET TO YOU SHORTLY GIVING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AS WE SEE IT, THOUGHTS ABOUT A COMPREHENSIVE RATHER THAN PIECEMEAL USG RESPONSE, AND A REQUEST FOR YOUR REACTION.

3. MEANWHILE THE RECENT ROKG BRIEFINGS (REFTELS) CONCERNING POSSIBLE ACTIONS AGAINST KIM YOUNG SAM PERSONALLY AND AGAINST HIS NEW PARTY, THE RDP, REQUIRE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE SINCE A MOVE AGAINST KIM/RDP APPEARS IMMINENT. WE WILL HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO RESPOND CRITICALLY AND PUBLICLY TO SUCH ACTIONS. THE INITIAL

~~SECRET~~

*Lilley's  
instructions  
to call on  
Foreign Minister*

S E C R E T

PAGE 0002

POST RESPONSE WAS GOOD, BUT WE NEED TO EMPHASIZE AND ELABORATE ON IT. IF, AS YOU SUGGEST, THE IDEA OF HARSH MEASURES AGAINST KIM/RDP IS PRESIDENT CHUN'S IDEA, WE SHOULD MAKE CERTAIN THAT CHUN UNDERSTANDS THE DEPTH OF THE NEGATIVE USG REACTION WHICH WOULD FOLLOW. YOU SHOULD CALL ON CHOI ASAP AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS. (DAS CLARK WILL DELIVER THE MESSAGE TO MIN. HAN OF THE ROK EMBASSY THIS AFTERNOON -- MAY 14, BECAUSE NEITHER AMB. KIM NOR I CAN MEET TODAY.)

4. BEGIN TALKING POINTS

--THE USG HAS WORKED OVER THE PAST YEAR OF POLITICAL TENSION AND EXPECTATION TO REMAIN NEUTRAL BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES.

--WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE PROCESS OF PEACEFUL TRANSITION AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATION AND COMPROMISE.

--ALTHOUGH CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION HAS TAKEN ON A SYMBOLIC VALUE OF ITS OWN FOR SOME IN KOREA AND THE US, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF REFORMS, NOT THE MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH REFORMS ARE ACCOMPLISHED.

--RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE STRAINED OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN OUR NEUTRAL STANCE. THESE INCLUDE:

A) PREMATURE SUSPENSION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DEBATE;

B) TIGHTENED RESTRICTIONS ON THE HOUSE ARREST OF KIM DAE JUNG;

C) HARRASSMENT OF THE ORGANIZING EFFORTS OF THE NEW OPPOSITION PARTY.

--IN THIS LIGHT CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE ACTION AGAINST KIM YOUNG SAM FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF HIS POLITICAL VIEWS, AND/OR AGAINST THE RDP'S PLATFORM OR RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ITSELF AS AN OPPOSITION PARTY, IS VERY DISTURBING.

--ACTION AGAINST THE RDP, A PARTY COMPOSED OF DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, OR AGAINST KIM, THAT PARTY'S ELECTED HEAD, WOULD PROMPT A STRONG NEGATIVE CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC RESPONSE IN THE UNITED STATES.

--THE USG WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CRITICIZE SUCH ACTIONS PUBLICLY AND WILL VIGOROUSLY DENY THAT WE IN ANYWAY APPROVED OR CONDONED IT.

--THIS IS ALL THE MORE TRUE SINCE WE HAVE REPORTED TO OUR PEOPLE AND OUR CONGRESS STATEMENTS BY YOUR PRESIDENT AND OTHERS THAT IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE ROKG TO MOVE FORWARD WITH MEASURES DESIGNED TO OPEN THE POLITICAL PROCESS SIGNIFICANTLY.

--AT THIS DELICATE TIME OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS MUST NOT GET INTO A PUBLIC DISPUTE OVER POLITICAL/HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN KOREA.

--WE STRONGLY URGE THE ROKG TO AVOID ACTIONS THAT WOULD MAKE SUCH A PUBLIC DISPUTE INEVITABLE.

5. WHILE IN WASHINGTON, YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU PLANNED TO

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

PAGE 0003

INVITE KIM YOUNG SAM TO YOUR RESIDENCE AS HEAD OF THE  
MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY. IN LIGHT OF CHOI'S REMARKS, WE  
THINK THAT THE TIME SHOULD BE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER TO  
REINFORCE THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE REGARD THIS  
MATTER. ARMACOST

END OF MESSAGE

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